

Patent claims

1. A method for conducting a clinical study (2) in which the occurrence of an event (14, 52) during the study (2) necessitates collaboration (39) between responsible study personnel (8a-d, 50a-d), with the following steps:

- the event (14, 52) is communicated to a collaboration system (4),
- the collaboration system (4), on the basis of parameters (16a-e) assigned to the event (14, 52), identifies a group (37) of responsible study personnel (8a-d, 50a-d) who are needed for the collaboration (39),
- the collaboration system (4) provides a communications platform (36) for the group (37),
- the group (37) undertakes the collaboration (39) using the communications platform (36),
- the collaboration system (4) checks the collaboration (39) on the basis of preestablished verification criteria (45).

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the collaboration system (4), as a communications platform (36), provides a central information bus and provides each responsible study personnel member (8a-d, 50a-d) of the group (37) with an information channel (38a-d, 54a-d) to the information bus.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which

- the collaboration system (4), using the parameters (16a-e) assigned to the event, ascertains available data (28) needed for collaboration (39) that are in a database (24) containing medical knowledge or in a study database (32),
- extracts the data (28, 46, 48) from the database (24, 32), and
- makes the data (28, 26, 48) available to the group (37) on the communications platform (36).

4. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the collaboration system (4), using the parameters (16a-e) assigned to the event (14, 52),

establishes a content or time framework for the collaboration (39) and communicates this to the group (37).

5. The method as claimed in claim 4, in which the collaboration system uses the content or time framework as a verification criterion (45) and, when the collaboration (39) is over, checks compliance with the verification criteria (45).

6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which a person who was not involved in the study prior to the occurrence of the event (14, 52) is included in the study (2) and in the group (37), as a responsible personnel member.

7. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, in which the event is a prompt (52) for collaboration (39) which is defined within the framework of the study.

8. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, in which the event is an unforeseeable event (14) arising during the study.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, in which the event (14, 52) is found by a monitoring system combing through the study database (32) data (46, 48) for anything striking.

10. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the collaboration (39) is documented.

11. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the collaboration (39) is archived.